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Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, Inc., (TBFAA) is a non-profit organization of security professionals who have joined together to enrich the industry by providing membership training and representing the membership as a whole in the Texas Legislature, the Texas Private Security Board and the Texas Fire Marshal’s Office among many other programs.

The TRANSMITTER is published by the Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, a Texas not for profit association.

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Advertising Information
Brad Shipp 877-908-2322
As an industry we are all capable of making individual choices for ourselves and for our business. Our customers rely on our ability to make good, sound, and rational decisions. The decisions we make for ourselves, our business, and ultimately for our customer is what makes us all different and is the basis of competition. Enforced regulation removes our ability to choose and can be harmful to consumers when it tilts the playing field of competition.

There are those that seek to profit in our industry while attempting to be excluded from the responsibility and liability of our regulatory bodies. The culprits range from trunk slammers to very large corporations. As members of the TBFAA we are driven to maintain our privilege to make rational choices and support regulation designed to protect the Texas consumer, our customer, and our industry.

The words of Saint Thomas Aquinas remain as true today as they did 800 years ago.

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Statewide view Calendar

**MAY**

08  HGCAA Membership Meeting- Houston
08-09 Fire Prep Class- San Antonio- Tri-Ed
13  STAA Membership Meeting- San Antonio
15  NTAA Membership Meeting- Dallas
15-16 Level 1 Houston- ADI
21  NTAA CEU Training ADI – Farmers Branch
26  Memorial Day Holiday
29  Central Texas Chapter Meeting Austin

**JUNE**

02-05  NFPA Meeting & Expo Las Vegas
10  STAA Membership Meeting- San Antonio
12  HGCAA Membership Meeting- Houston
19-20 Fire Prep Class Houston- ADI
15-22 ALOA Expo Dallas
18-20 NSCA Expo Las Vegas
19  NTAA Membership Meeting Dallas
26  TXBFAA Board Meeting- Austin
     Central Texas Chapter Meeting- Austin
25-27 CSAA-NBFAA Expo  Nashville
26-27 Level 1 Austin- ADI

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**Houston Gulf Coast Association**
Phone: **281.859.4569**
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at Cadilliac Bar and Grill, Shepard @ I-10
POC: Brian McKinney  p: 713.983.0182  e: isgbrian@aol.com

**North Texas Alarm Association**
Phone: **214.352.9352**
3rd Thursday of each month. Check website for locations and times
POC: David Simon  p: 972.871.3778  e: dave.simon@brinks.com

**South Texas Alarm Association**
Phone: **210.402.6262**
Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month. Check website for locations and times
POC: Bob Vallance  p: 210.659.6751  e: bob2@vallance.com

**Central Texas Chapter**
Phone: **877.908.2322**
Meets the 4th Thursday of the month except Oct & Dec at 11:30 am Springhill Restaurant, 1119 FM 1825, Pflugerville, TX 78660.
POC: Jeff Bright  p: 512.845.1460  e: jbright@brightsecuritygroup.com

**Northeast Texas Chapter**
Phone: **877.908.2322**
Meets quarterly in Longview Area. Plus local meetings will be held in various cities. Check website for times and locations.
POC: Patrick Craven  p: 903.792.7262  e: pacraven@cableone.net

**National Electronic Security Alliance**
Phone: **301.519.9237**
NESA is a federation of state associations, including TBFAA, established to serve and promote the electronic systems industry at the direction of, and through its affiliated state associations.
POC: Rex Adams  p: 972.437.1213  e: radams@asdsecurity.com

**False Alarm Reduction Association**
Phone: **301.519.9237**
FARA an association of persons working public safety False Alarm Reduction Units that exchanges information, influences legislation and establishes relationships and partnerships with other groups interested in false alarm reduction. TBFAA is an associate member of FARA.
POC: Brad Shipp  p: 301.519.9237  e: info@faraonline.org
Thefts Rise With Copper Prices

By Brad Shipp, TBFAA

States Boost Efforts To Catch Crooks

Copper, which sells for between $3 and $4 a pound, sold for about 83 cents a pound in 2000, said Bob Garino, director of commodities for the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), a trade group.

Copper thefts has prompted some states to introduce legislation increasing criminal penalties for thieves and for dealers who buy stolen copper.

Thirty-five states now have laws on the books or in the works requiring copper dealers to record identification for copper sales above a certain value, according to ISRI spokesman Bruce Savage. The industry group opposes such legislation, preferring voluntary initiatives including a national theft-notification network.

Information for this article was obtained from the Washington Post
The Nation’s Premier Wholesale Central Station

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When Governor George Bush appointed Mike Samulin to the then Texas Commission on Private Security in 2000, no one knew what was about to transpire with the agency. The agency went through months of turmoil and a complete overhaul with Jay Kimbrough at the helm and was ultimately moved to the Texas Dept. of Public Safety. Mike was key in the agency’s move, and forged strong and lasting relationships with the leaders of DPS.

Mike was named Vice-Chair of the Private Security Board in 2003, and along with Chairman George Craig worked tirelessly with the legislature to make the move to DPS almost seamless. Mike has worked diligently with all the industry groups since his appointment, but has always kept a keen eye on all things that affect the Alarm Industry. He has also worked hard to make sure that the citizens of Texas were also represented in Board decisions, and has done a remarkable job of balancing the needs of the industry with the needs of the general public. Mike was Re-appointed by Rick Perry after he became governor, and has been instrumental with the balance and temperament of how DPS goes about its business. He has been on the forefront of rule changes that are fair and represent the needs of the Security Industry. During his tenure Mike has also testified before numerous Senate and House Committees to make our legislators aware of our Industry’s needs and problems.

After the last Legislative Session, he was one of only two industry people that were presented with a special award from The Texas Department of Public Safety for his hard work during the session. This special award had never been given to anyone before.

At his “retirement” ceremony last month in Austin, all of the top DPS officials were present, and again presented him with another award for his efforts representing our Industry. After seven years of dedicated service to our Industry, Mike deserves a “Special Thanks” from our Industry that he represented with fervor and tenacity. Thank You Mike.
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TBFAA Awards Dinner

Friday 10/24
Breakfast
Private Security, Fire, TBFAA & Legislative Updates
Annual Meeting & Lunch
Cooperative False Alarm Reduction Class
TBFAA Trade Show
Casino Night

Saturday 10/25
Breakfast
TBFAA Board Meeting & Lunch

www.TBFAA.org
On Wednesday, March 5th, Chris Russell and Rodney Hooker attended a special dinner for the outgoing and new board members of the Private Security Board at Pappadeaux’s Restaurant in Austin. The TBFAA, ASSIST, and TALI sponsored the dinner. Colonel Thomas Davis, Lt. Colonel David McEatron, Chief Burton Christian, and Legislative Liaison Michael Kelly of the DPS also attended this dinner. At the meeting, former Chairman George Craig, and former Vice-Chair Mike Samulin were recognized for their outstanding service and dedication to the PSB, and Michael Kelly presented them awards from DPS. New Board members Charles Crenshaw, Mark Smith, and Doris Davis were recognized and welcomed to their new positions. It was a fun evening, and the new Board members were pleased to be welcomed in a casual atmosphere. There were approximately 40 people in attendance from the represented Industry groups.

On Thursday, March 6th, the new Board held its first meeting at DPS Headquarters in Austin. In attendance representing the TBFAA were Chris Russell, Rodney Hooker, Debi Ulmer, and Jeff Bright. Mr. John Chism is the new chairman, and the first order of business was to elect Vice-Chair and Secretary. Mr. Howard Johnsen was elected Vice-Chair, and Mark Smith was elected Secretary.

There were 2 items on the agenda that the TBFAA members were to address. One was the proposed new Drug Testing requirement being offered up by the ASSIST group, the other is the proposed Qualified Managers requirements also crafted by ASSIST. President Russell was to speak on the new Managers requirements, and Vice-President Hooker was to speak on the new drug testing requirements. As both of these items came up, there was much discussion at the Board level, and both of these items were tabled until the next meeting of the PSB in June. Mr. Charles Crenshaw did an outstanding job at his first meeting, and stated that committee’s should be formed to study the ramifications of the proposals, and that it would not be prudent to act until many questions are answered, and Industry input could be considered. President Russell and Vice-President Hooker volunteered to be part of any ad-hoc committee’s to study these proposals. The TBFAA will be awaiting information concerning the formation of these committee’s.
TBFAA Position on Substance Abuse

The Texas Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (TBFAA) recognizes that substance-abuse can impact any industry including our own. While we have no evidence that substance abuse is a significant problem in our industry, Texas citizens always deserve our proactive effort to ensure that their lives and property are not adversely affected.

TBFAA urges the alarm industry to take heed of the following recommendations from the US Department of Labor.

An organization’s philosophy concerning alcohol and drugs sets the tone for its drug-free workplace policy and program. Some organizations focus on detection, apprehension and discharge and apply a strong law enforcement model that treats employees who use drugs as criminals. Other organizations focus on performance and emphasize deterrence and assistance, because they view alcohol and drug use as causing impairment of otherwise capable employees. The most effective drug-free workplace programs strike a balance between these two philosophies. They send a strong clear message and, at the same time, encourage employees to seek assistance if they are struggling with alcohol or drug problems.

The following are some philosophies and practices that can undermine the effectiveness of drug-free workplace programs:

- Focusing only on illicit drug use and failing to include alcohol—the number one drug of abuse in our society
- Accepting drug use and alcohol abuse as part of modern life and a cost of doing business
- Over reliance on drug testing
- Focusing on termination of users rather than rehabilitation
- Reluctance of supervisors to confront employees on the basis of poor performance
- Reinforcing an individual’s denial regarding the impact of his or her alcohol and drug use
- Restricting benefits and/or access to treatment of alcoholism and addiction
- Allowing insurers to restrict access to treatment programs

The characteristic common to all effective drug-free workplace programs is balance. A successful drug-free workplace program must strike a delicate balance between a number of sometimes competing elements, including:

- The rights of employees and the rights of employers
- The need to know and rights to privacy
- Detection and rehabilitation
- Respect for employees and the safety of all

Developing an effective program that strikes the right balance can be challenging. To help, organizations are strongly encouraged to:

- Research what other similar organizations are doing and resources available
- Collaborate and cooperate with workers
- Assess the current situation and determine any special needs
- Determine whether any state or Federal laws apply

Develop Your Own Company Policy

Industry professionals seeking to develop a policy for their company are urged to visit the US Department of Labor’s Drug-Free Workplace Advisor to construct a policy that meets the needs of their company, their employees and their customers. http://www.dol.gov/elaws/asp/drugfree/drugs/screen16.asp
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Nice Catch.
TBFAA Position on PSB Proposal

TBFAA Position on Proposed Revisions to Licensed Manager Qualifications

After careful consideration and review the TBFAA Board has adopted the following positions on the proposals to change the licensed manager qualifications currently being reviewed by the Private Security Board.

Requirements That May Restrict The Ability Of Applicants To Become Managers

- TBFAA strongly objects to any changes and additions to licensed manager qualification that are overly restrictive or seem to be designed primarily to reduce competition and may violate US Anti-trust law.
- TBFAA opposes rules that when taken together unreasonably restrict and in some cases prevent new applicants.
- Creating unreasonable and/or unattainable standards will likely result in less “licensed” companies, but not necessarily fewer companies.

Creating Requirements In Rule That Are Not Called For In Law

TBFAA opposes proposals that establish in rule, requirements that were not set in legislation.

Age Limits

TBFAA believes there is no justification to require a manager to be 21.
- Federal and Texas state laws that recognize an individual to be an adult at the age of 18.
- Current law requires a licensee to be a minimum of 18 years of age and requires two years of experience to apply as a manager. Therefore, under the current manager requirements the applicant must be over the age of 20.
- We feel that a minimum age of greater than 20 years for a manager is reasonable and justifiable.
- We feel that restricting an otherwise qualified 20 to 21 year old applicant’s right to apply for a license is not justified and contradicts other laws.
- If the manager needs to carry a firearm that age requirement would override the 18 year old requirement for that particular manager.

General Experience Requirements

TBFAA opposes increasing the years of experience from 2 years prior to allowing a person to take the manager’s test.
- The additional experience will not necessarily improve that individual’s ability to function as a qualified manager.
- It could unreasonably prevent or delay individuals from becoming licensed without a reasonable cause.

Required Management or Supervisory Experience

TBFAA opposes requiring applicants for a manager’s license to have experience as a manager before they apply to become a manager.
- No other similar business or industry in Texas requires individuals to serve as a manager as a pre-requisite to becoming a manager.
- It may violate US Anti-Trust laws to require the applicant to get owners or managers at existing or previous employers (who may be competitors) to verify the applicants management or supervisory experience.
- Current combination of experience in the industry and testing on the law and rules is sufficient to ensure a qualified manager.

Requiring Classroom Training for Manager Applicants

The TBFAA is opposed to changes that would require class room instruction on board rules and 1702.
- Current required testing of applicants is sufficient proof that an applicant has reviewed both the rules and 1702.
- Current rules for a manager require ongoing CEU training on board rules as a condition to maintain the license.
- Requiring classroom training will discourage or prevent new applicants.
- Requirement may cause a person to fear for their job with their current employer if they are discovered in an open class to become a licensed manager.

Adding Exam Questions on Specific Industries

TBFAA opposes adding questions on specific industries to the manager’s exam.
- Adds an unnecessary burden on PSB staff to develop and administer an exam.
- Adding for one industry would set a precedent that may lead to a similar requirement for our industry.
- Targeting requirements by industry was not called for in the legislation.
- Developing appropriate questions for any industry will be a moving target, and will be quickly outdated with each change in technology and business practices.
Here’s just some of the many TBFAA Training Courses Available:

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- **Jan 24-25**  McAllen
- **Feb 28-29**  Dallas
- **Mar 27-28**  San Antonio
- **Apr 17-18**  El Paso
- **May 15-16**  Houston
- **Jun 26-27**  Austin
- **Jul 10-11**  Amarillo
- **Aug 28-29**  McAllen
- **Sep 25-26**  Dallas
- **Oct 02-03**  El Paso
- **Nov 06-07**  Houston
- **Dec 11-12**  San Antonio

For more class offerings, information and additional dates, visit www.TBFAA.org or call 877-908-2322.

**Fire Prep**
- **Jan 18**  Dallas
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- **Mar 07**  Houston
- **Apr 11**  Dallas
- **May 08-09**  San Antonio
- **Jun 19-20**  Houston
- **Jul 24-25**  Dallas
- **Aug 14-15**  San Antonio
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Chapter News

Action in the Rio Grande Valley
By: Rodney Hooker, TBFAA Vice President

First Meeting is a Success!

On February 27th, the TBFAA held its first meeting in Weslaco to explore the possibility of forming a Chapter in the Rio Grande Valley.

Thomas Beare of ASG Security helped coordinate the meeting, and secured a location for this event. Tracey Ritchie, Kelly Ryan and Rodney Hooker represented the TBFAA.

There were 23 people in attendance representing 18 different installing companies. The State Law and Rule Change CEU presentation was done by Rodney Hooker, and was well received by all in attendance.

The attendee’s showed a great amount of interest in the formation of a Chapter in the Valley.

Second Meeting Builds on the First

On April 22 the second meeting was held in the Rio Grande Valley to see if there was enough interest to form a Chapter. The meeting was held at InAlert Security Distribution in McAllen. TBFAA board members in attendance were Kelly Ryan, Tom Gleitz, Tracey Ritchie, and Rodney Hooker.

There were a total of 29 people in attendance, representing 14 companies. The presentation on the CP-01 Panel standards was presented and ADI and Dispatch Center split the lunch cost, with InAlert providing the drinks.

Leader Elected

The meeting went extremely well, and at the close, the people in attendance elected Mr. Luis Ortega of Ace Fire and Sound to be the leader of the group as they start the formation of a Chapter for the Valley.

Luis is reviewing the by-laws regarding Chapter formation, and he seemed excited to be chosen as the groups first leader.

After the meeting, almost everyone in attendance stayed around for quite a while talking about the “next meeting” and what could be done to make sure they get the word out to their competitors to get them to the meeting.

A special thanks to Ms Diana Luevano of InAlert Distribution for the use of her facility, and she has volunteered the facility for the next meeting. Also a at-a-boy to Kelly Ryan for all of his efforts to help organize this meeting.

I will update as we move forward to form this new Chapter.
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TX Private Security Bureau
TOA Electronics
Tri-ed Distribution, Inc
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Uplink
Windy City Wire
RenEarl Bowie was promoted in April to become the Captain in charge of the Texas Department of Public Safety-Private Security Bureau. Captain Bowie has 14 years of experience with the department.

Captain Bowie graduated from the Texas Department of Public Safety Academy in June of 1994. He was stationed in the Highway Patrol office in Winnie, Texas. In 1995, he transferred to the Highway Patrol office in Austin, Texas.

In 1999 he was promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Intelligence Service and then to Lieutenant in the Criminal Intelligence Service in 2004. In 2004 he transferred to the Administration Division in the office of recruiting. In 2005, Captain Bowie transferred to the Private Security Bureau-Investigations Section to oversee the bureau's enforcement activities.

Captain Bowie received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Texas State University in 1993 and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Texas State University in 1999. He is currently an adjunct professor of criminal justice for Concordia University, Austin Community College and Northwestern University Center for Public Safety-Evanston, Illinois.

On March 26-27, during a targeted operation in El Paso County, the DPS Private Security Bureau arrested 10 individuals, including seven from unlicensed locksmith companies and three from unlicensed alarm companies. During the two-day operation, investigators made the arrests when employees of the unlicensed companies offered alarm and locksmith services to undercover DPS officers.

“The law requires the licensing of locksmiths and alarm companies for the benefit of the public,” said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. “These companies have access to private homes, and the licensing process guarantees that their employees have undergone criminal background checks, are not registered sex offenders and meet basic requirements established by Texas law.”

The 10 arrested individuals are charged with operating without a license, which is a Class A misdemeanor. Section 1702.102 of the Texas Occupations Code states that a person cannot offer or provide locksmith or alarm company services without first obtaining a license from the DPS Private Security Bureau.

This operation was conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the El Paso County Precinct 1 Constables Office, Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace, El Paso Commissioners court and the El Paso District Attorney’s Office.
Sunset for Private Security Bureau?

By Brad Shipp, TBFAA

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission has published its recommendations on the Private Security Bureau.

In 1977, the Texas Legislature created the Sunset Advisory Commission to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in government agencies. The Commission questions the need for each agency, looks for potential duplication of other public services or programs, and considers new and innovative changes to improve each agency’s operations and activities. To learn more about the commission visit www.sunset.state.tx.us.

The Commission recently reviewed the Department of Public Safety, including the Private Security Bureau. A direct link to the report is at http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/81streports/dps/dps.pdf

Issues 6 & 7 of the document directly deal with Private Security Bureau. A hearing will be held June 24 & 25 on the recommendations.

Key Recommendations

• **Regulate by Endorsement** - A change in statute that would allow the Bureau, by rule, to issue endorsements by class of license would streamline the licensing process and potentially reduce licensing fees for some applicants. For example, an employee of a company with a Class B company license would have a Class B individual license with endorsements by approved job title instead of a separate license for each position that person is approved to perform. Endorsements added to an existing license would have the same expiration date as the original license and the fee would be pro-rated accordingly.

• **Apply Chapter 53 to the Private Security Act** - Would give the Bureau more flexibility in reviewing occupational license applications that include criminal history and potentially allow applicants to be treated more fairly.

• **Exam on Law & Regulations** - Authorizing the Bureau to require all license applicants to pass jurisprudence exams would ensure a better understanding of the laws and rules that guide the applicants’ profession.

• **Appeals** - Board actions relating to appeals should be subject to review in district court under the substantial evidence rule.

• **Administrative penalties** - Increasing the maximum administrative penalty amount to $5,000 per violation per day for a violation of the private security statute or rules would give the Bureau flexibility to address the potentially severe nature of illegal behavior.

• **Board Compensation** - Allow reimbursement for transportation, meals, lodging, and incidental expenses.

• **Flexible fees** - A licensing agency should have authority to set fees. The ability to set fees allows for greater administrative flexibility and reduces the need for the Legislature to continually update agency statutes to accurately reflect the costs of providing services.

• **Outside Employment** - Prohibit PSB troopers from having outside employment as security officers.

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TX LIC# B12591
Increases in the number of burglaries and a recent court challenge are causing two cities to rethink their verified response policies.

**Overall Crime up Due to Drastic Increase in Burglaries**

Madison Wisconsin saw a 5.5 percent overall increase in crime last year that was largely the result of a 26.6-percent increase in commercial and residential burglaries. Violent crimes in all categories except murder went down.

"Violent crime in our community is down substantially compared to 2006," Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, who was ill and couldn’t attend the press conference, said in a prepared statement. "Clearly efforts such as our ongoing expansion of the police force, the Downtown Safety Initiative and our work on Allied Drive are paying off." Police Chief Noble Wray said the increase was all the more alarming because the numbers peaked in the latter half of the year.

The startling number of break-ins, which often targeted electronic equipment, prompted Wray to appoint Lt. Mark Brown to assemble a task force, dubbed Blue Net, to combat the trend.

**Verified Response Policy Suspended**

Wray said the burglary problem has prompted a suspension of a policy instituted last summer of not having officers respond immediately to commercial burglary alarms, which was put in place because officers were wasting limited resources on false alarms.

There was no clear reason for the increase in burglaries, which included a number of smash-and-grabs at retail shops, something that was rare in the past. "You can’t underestimate the impact of the economy," Wray said.

**Court Rules Fontana Must Respond to Alarms**

The San Bernardino Superior Court ruled May 8 that the City of Fontana Police Department must respond to alarm events, regardless of whether they are verified or not, the result of a suit filed by the Inland Empire Alarm Association (IEAA) against the City of Fontana Police Department on Sept. 24, 2007. The suit disputed the city’s implementation of a verified response policy, which required alarm companies to verify the legitimacy of an activated alarm prior to dispatching the police. The policy went into effect Oct. 1, 2007.

IEAA argued that the city’s verified response policy contradicted the City of Fontana Burglar Alarm Ordinance, which had been enforced since its enactment in 1968.

"The intention of this suit was not for the industry as much as for the citizens of Fontana," said Morgan Hertel, vice president of the Command Center and a member of the IEAA. "Government agencies simply can’t make policy that trumps ordinances and laws in this country and that’s the basis of this lawsuit and why we won. The association won their part, but the real winners are the citizens and the public at large."

Hertel said he believes the court’s ruling sets a precedent. "It means that any other city that wants to enact any kind of policy, whether it’s a false alarm or a how-to-mow-your-lawn, you can’t just make a policy if there’s already a law that governs it," he said.

He also said that he hopes there’s no bad blood between the two parties and said the association will reach out to the police department in upcoming days.

It remains unclear whether the city will be required by the court to take immediate action to resume alarm response. The city has 60 days from the entry of judgment to appeal the court’s decision. "What happens now is anybody’s guess," said Hertel.
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Tri-Ed San Antonio Salutes Its Customers

Tri-Ed San Antonio is pleased to announce several upcoming Customer Appreciation events and training opportunities. Branch Manager Brandon Young will host the following events:

* June 13th: Customer Appreciation BBQ hosted by LRG Rep Firm from 10-2
* June 27th: Customer Appreciation BBQ hosted by Aiphone from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“I look forward to welcoming customers at these special events,” Brandon says. Tri-Ed’s San Antonio branch is located at 121 Interpark Blvd., Suite 507. To phone the branch, please call 210-499-5015.

Honeywell Launches Security Video Web Site

Honeywell has launched a new Web site that features downloadable and embeddable videos that showcase real-world security stories. The Security Channel™ features the newest security technologies, introduces viewers to leading industry personalities and examines real-world security projects.

Visitors are also able to embed the videos on their own Web sites, download video podcasts and sign up for an RSS feed that sends updates on new videos. Viewers will soon be able to submit their own videos for inclusion on The Security Channel.

“Nothing brings a story to life like a good video,” says Kevin O’Connor, vice president of global sales, Honeywell Security. “The Security Channel will explore security in all of its many aspects. We want to use this powerful medium in a way that will truly engage the viewers and help them share real-life experiences, learn about new technologies and even be entertained.”

Great Expectations Continue To Be Met At Tri-Ed

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